



# MARS PLANET FOUNDATION

## September 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Present	Ambassadors	Present
Kevin Hagen		Diana Jacoby	
Tricia Holland	x	Jenn Giesler	
Carol Knox	x	Bethany Ratcliffe	
Stacey Palmer	x	Robin Parsons	
Amy Riggio		Liz Porco	
LeeAnn Riner	x		
Rochelle Seideneck			
Jenn Stuber	x	<b>MASD Admin</b>	
Doug Wolf	x	Dr. Elizabeth McMahan	x
Vickie Zaccari	x	<b>Alternate School Board Member</b>	
Beth Ziegler	x	Jennifer DiCuccio	x

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

### Teacher Grant Presentation – Mr. Churilla & Mrs. Coon

- ❖ Mr. Churilla and Mrs. Coon are collaborating on a STEAM & Physical Education golf unit. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will use the Engineering and Design Process to create and build a miniature golf course. They will collaborate as a class to design obstacles for the course according to their given theme. The course will then be assembled in the school. Mrs. Coon will be teaching the physical education concepts of golf to the fifth and sixth grade classes. They will learn the rules, etiquette, and skills of golf to play the miniature golf course.
- ❖ Mr. Churilla is requesting \$884.82 (\$839.88 for turf and \$44.94 for wiffle golf balls)

### Teacher Grant Presentation – Mr. Churilla

- ❖ Mr. Churilla is interested in purchasing four Finch Flock Robot Sets—a programmable robot that brings computer science to life by providing students a hands-on representation of their code. The Finch Flock is a classroom pack of five robots. Currently, Mr. Churilla’s class only has sphero robots which are one level (middle to semi-advanced). Last year, he ran into a problem with students who were behind. This specific design would allow him to program the robots at whatever skill level is necessary. Additionally, they are compatible with the schools current iPads. This would be a more advanced version of the V Bot that is used in lower grades.
- ❖ The total project cost is \$3,196; however, Mr. Churilla received a \$1,000 grant from PPG to assist with the project. Mr. Churilla is requesting the additional \$2,196.

### Teacher Grant Discussion – STEAM and Physical Education Grant

- ❖ Board members discussed the respective STEAM and Physical Education grant submissions by Mr. Churilla and Mrs. Coon.
- ❖ LeeAnn Riner motioned to approve the grant in the amount of \$884.82. Motion was seconded by Jenn Stuber, unanimously approved by all present board members. The money will be disbursed from the EITC fund.
- ❖ Doug Wolf motioned to approve the grant in the amount of \$2,196. Motion was seconded by Jenn DiCuccio, unanimously approved by all present board members. The money will be disbursed from the EITC fund.

**Meeting Minutes** – The Meeting Minutes from August 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 were discussed

- ❖ LeeAnn Riner motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jenn Stuber. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Teacher Grant Report** – Presented by Carol Knox

- ❖ Carol Knox and Liz Porco created/distributed a teacher grant program pamphlet to all teachers in each building.
- ❖ All of the building Principals have agreed to play a recorded presentation about the Foundation and Teacher Grants, at each of the faculty meetings. The recorded presentation should be completed over the next week.

**Treasurer Report**

- ❖ The Foundation financial report has sent via e-mailed.
- ❖ Beth Ziegler asked about the scoreboard invoices. Timelines were discussed, and all present board members agreed that letters should be sent by the beginning of May with a due date of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Scholarship Report – Presented by LeeAnn Riner**

- ❖ LeeAnn Riner and Vickie Zaccari attended the College Fair on behalf of the Foundation. LeeAnn created pamphlets about scholarships for parents and students to take with them.
- ❖ LeeAnn has been talking with the Guidance Office on the Awards banquet. The 2023 Awards Banquet is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board discussed partnering with the school by offering assistance. Dr. McMahon will provide an estimated cost to the Foundation for discussion to determine how we would like to proceed.

**EITC Report**

- ❖ We received contact information from twelve businesses interested in the EITC program, during the Orientation nights at the schools. Each of these companies has been contacted. One of the businesses hopes to donate \$15,000 each year, for the next two years, evidencing the potential to grow the EITC program.
- ❖ Discussed the literacy and career readiness initiative. Beth Ziegler is will revise the Foundation's submission to contain more specific information, as requested by our EITC contact.
- ❖ Discussed tabling the Career Readiness initiative until we receive a grant that would satisfy this criteria. At that time, the Board may revisit the initiative.

**Fundraising Reports**

- ❖ Flying Squirrels & Fun Slides update
  - \$150 was raised at the Flying Squirrels fundraiser events. Brandon & Jamie McMurtrie, owners of Flying Squirrels, have generously donated \$250 on top of the \$150 raised for a total of \$400.
  - Consider doing a recurrent event in the winter.
  - Fun Slides fundraiser will be upcoming on 09/25/22.
- ❖ Banners
  - There is revenue to be had with regard to banners but a plan needs created.
  - Jenn Stuber will now take over responsibility for banner sponsorships.
- ❖ Tough Run Update – October 2023
  - The Foundation would need to purchase additional insurance for this fundraiser.

- Carol Knox, Stacey Palmer, and Vickie Zaccari will meet with a contact from the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation regarding the execution of their Tuff Tornado Run.

### **Technology Report**

- ❖ MobileCause – A meeting has been scheduled with MobileCause to downgrade service.

### **Communications Report**

- ❖ Social Media – Jenn Stuber has been making an effort to post content routinely.
- ❖ Newsletter – The Foundation has decided to do two newsletters (one in January, one in May), and is also considering issuing a letter in September, introducing the Foundation and welcoming the students back to school in the fall.

### **Event Reports – Presented by Carol Knox**

- ❖ Mars Applefest is scheduled for Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Sign-up sheet is available. There are two separate shifts.

### **New Business**

- ❖ Discussed Alumni process – Tricia Holland will reach out to Mrs. Rosswog.
- ❖ Doug Wolf presented information about Alveole. It's an urban beekeeping program that offers multiple opportunities for exploring cross-curricular education topics with a hands-on approach. The honey that is produced from the hives can also be utilized as a fundraiser. The company has successfully worked with over 150 school districts across America and Europe.
- ❖ Discussed establishing a process for bringing on new board members. Recommendation would be to reach out to Ambassadors in October to see if any would be interested in a seat. If there is no interest, the Foundation would publicly post the positions during the months of November and December; and scheduling an election meeting prior to the January board meeting so the new board members can immediately take their positions on the Board.

Tricia Holland motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carol Knox. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the Board Room at the MASD Admin building.

**Respectfully submitted by,**

Tricia Holland

MPF Secretary